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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	Hon. JOSE L. LINARES, U.S.D.J.
v.	:	Crim. No. 07-785
AKOUAVI KPADE AFOLABI, a/k/a "Gloria Lawson," a/k/a "Sister," a/k/a "Selina,"	:	<u>ORDER FOR CONTINUANCE</u>
LASSISSI AFOLABI, a/k/a "Fovi," a/k/a "Bogard,"	:	
DERECK HOUNAKEY, a/k/a "Koko," and	:	
GEOFFRY KOUEVI, a/k/a "Kangni"	:	

This matter having been opened to the Court by Ralph J. Marra, Jr., Acting United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey (Shana W. Chen, Assistant United States Attorney, appearing), defendant Akouavi Kpade Afolabi (Bukie O. Adetula, Esq., appearing), defendant Lassissi Afolabi (John P. McGovern, Esq., appearing), defendant Dereck Hounakey (Dwight H. Simon Day, Esq., appearing), and defendant Geoffry Kouevi (Michael A. Baldassare, Esq., appearing), for an order granting a continuance of the proceedings in the above-captioned matter to allow the defendants and the Office of the United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey to conduct plea negotiations and finalize plea agreements, and the defendants being aware that each has the right to have the matter brought to trial within 70 days of the date of his appearance before a judicial officer of this court, pursuant to Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 3161(c)(1); and the defendants each having consented to the continuance in the above-captioned matter because he needs additional time to confer with counsel and review discovery;

and it appearing that the defendants each have waived such right; and for good and sufficient cause shown,

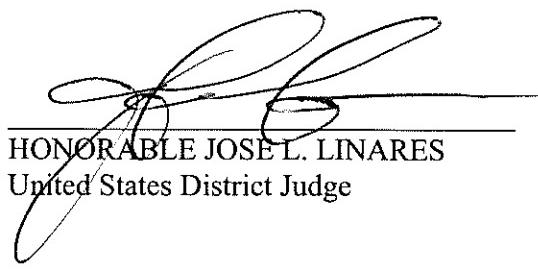
IT IS THE FINDING OF THIS COURT that this action should be continued for the following reasons:

1. Plea negotiations currently are in progress, and the United States and the defendants desire additional time to negotiate plea agreements, which would thereby render trial of this matter unnecessary.
2. Defendants have consented to the aforementioned continuance.
3. The grant of a continuance will likely conserve judicial resources.
4. Pursuant to Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 3161(h)(8), the ends of justice served by granting the continuance outweigh the best interests of the public and the defendants in a speedy trial.

WHEREFORE, IT IS on this 29<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2009

ORDERED that the proceedings in the above-captioned matter are continued for the period of February 17, 2009 through June 3, 2009; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the period between February 17, 2009 through June 3, 2009 shall be excludable in computing time under the Speedy Trial Act of 1974.

  
HONORABLE JOSE L. LINARES  
United States District Judge